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Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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00-43431 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 151: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/54/55)

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Support account for peacekeeping operations (A/54/797, A/54/800 and A/54/832)

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Review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States (A/54/763 and A/54/859)

Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/54/30, A/54/711, A/54/733 and A/54/841 and Add.8)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to a letter dated 13 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the United States, which had been issued as document A/C.5/54/55.

2. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/54/797), which contained the financial performance report of the support account for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. Against a budget of $34,400,000, expenditures had amounted to $32,821,600, resulting in an unutilized balance of $1,578,400. The unutilized balance was largely due to savings realized under staff costs because of the high vacancy rate in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), which was the result of the phasing out of gratis personnel and the constant turnover of staff to peacekeeping missions.

3. During the reporting period, further progress had been made in the treatment of death and disability claims. As at 19 May 1997, a backlog of 564 claims had awaited processing. A further 1,219 claims had been received, while 1,498 claims had been processed, leaving 285 claims awaiting processing. It was envisaged that the backlog would be eliminated by 30 June 2000. The speeding up of the processing of death and disability cases by DPKO had led to a corresponding increase in the workload of the Medical Services Division with respect to the review and certification of those claims. In order to allow the Division to process the backlog, it had been provided with general temporary assistance funds. The Accounts Division had also received general temporary assistance funds to enable it to overcome the backlog in the processing of inter-office vouchers and the reconciliation of statements in the Peacekeeping Accounts Section. As at 30 June 1999, sufficient progress had been made in dealing with the backlog and the continuation of general temporary assistance funds had not therefore been requested.

4. The Peacekeeping Financing Division had implemented a self-evaluation mechanism designed to review the budgetary preparation and review process. As a result of that exercise, the process had been streamlined and provision had been made, for the first time, for direct participation by mission chief administrative officers. In addition, there had been improvements in the content, format and presentation of the performance reports and proposed budgets of individual peacekeeping operations, as indicated in paragraph 13 of the report, and in the timeliness of their submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the General Assembly. Regarding procurement, the increased use of institutional contract agreements had led to significant savings under individual mission budgets resulting from lower unit prices for large-volume items such as vehicles and electronic data-processing equipment. Towards the latter half of the reporting period, the Secretariat had been faced with the challenge of planning for new and expanding peacekeeping operations, which had led to a significantly increased workload, particularly in DPKO.

5. With respect to the support account proposals for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/54/800), he said that resource requirements were estimated at $51,736,600 gross ($44,189,100 net), which would provide for 471 posts, including four new posts. The amount proposed represented an increase of $13,347,900 compared with the amount approved for the current period (1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000), which was largely due to a first-time provision for staff assessment, made pursuant to a recommendation of ACABQ, and to the 12-month cost of the 67 additional

support account posts approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/234. The increase also reflected the establishment of new peacekeeping missions in Kosovo, East Timor, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA). With the dramatic increase in peacekeeping activity, the requirements for backstopping peacekeeping operations had also increased substantially. However, while the initial total estimated budget level for all peacekeeping operations, including the support account, had risen from $644 million for the current period to around $2 billion for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, the level of resources allocated to the support account, as a percentage of that total, had diminished.

6. The Secretariat had undertaken a comprehensive review of the concept of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters pursuant to the request made in General Assembly resolution 53/12 B, taking into account the recent changes in the nature and scope of peacekeeping. It had concluded that the original concept of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters, which assumed that only one mission at a time would be established requiring only a limited range of expertise, did not meet the requirements of current peacekeeping operations. It had therefore decided to adjust the concept with the objective of ensuring the rapid deployment of a wide variety of expertise, including military. The revised system for rapid deployment would utilize the expertise of the United Nations Secretariat and system of agencies and programmes, Member States and non-governmental organizations. It would include political, military, civilian police and a broad range of civilian experts and logistic and administrative personnel. The modus operandi of the system would be based on arrangements with Member States and relevant organizations for the immediate release, upon the establishment of a peacekeeping operation, of individually pre-selected personnel, who would be deployed for a period of 60 to 90 days. More permanent personnel would replace them as soon as they could be deployed. Under the revised rapid deployment concept, the Rapid Deployment Management Unit would comprise four posts, namely head of office (P-5), humanitarian officer (P-4), civilian police officer (P-4) and one General Service staff. The P-5 post and the General Service post were new.

7. With respect to the Office of Operations, it was proposed, in paragraph 87 of the budget document, to upgrade the regular-budget post of Director of the Europe and Latin America Division from D-1 to D-2 in order to reflect the significant increase in the workload of the Division.

8. The note by the Secretary-General on reform of the procedure for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/54/795) contained comments and observations on the recommendations made in the report of the Phase V Working Group on reform procedures for determining reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment, which had been issued as document A/C.5/54/49. The Working Group had met during the week of 24 to 28 January 2000 to conduct the periodic review of the phase II and phase III standards pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/233. It had proposed a methodology for the periodic revision of the rates in major equipment, self-sustainment and special cases. In addition, it had adopted the Secretariat's proposal on medical support services with the amendments contained in paragraph 86 of its report. Owing to time constraints and the lack of availability of sufficient data from troop-contributing countries, the Working Group had been unable to develop new rates for major equipment and self-sustainment categories. It had therefore recommended that a post-Phase V Working Group, open to all Member States, should be convened in January or February 2001 to validate the methodology by which revised rates would be determined and to develop the new rates.

9. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States (A/54/763), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/218 E, had requested the Secretary-General to carry out a new survey of troop-contributing States and to include in the related report a complete analysis of all services being provided to troops, together with an indication of the rationale for the provision of each service and how those services were administered and accounted for. For the purposes of the survey, cost information based on military salary scales in effect as of December 1996 had been requested from 64 Member States providing troops and military observers to United Nations peacekeeping operations at that time. A list of those States was contained in annex I to the report. Of the 38 replies received, 31 had been in

conformity with the guidelines, including 26 submitted by troop-contributing States. The cost information provided by those States was contained in annexes II.A, II.B and III to the report. The average of the 26 reported costs for pay and allowances for troops in December 1996 ranged from $774 to $10,778 per person per month, with an overall average of $3,806 and a median of $2,812. As indicated in annex IV, the overall average absorption factor for 1996 was 53.9 per cent, compared with 32.8 per cent for 1991. It would therefore appear that an upward adjustment of the current rates might be warranted.

10. The report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/54/711) contained the financial performance report of the Base for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. Expenditures for the period had totalled $6,690,000, against a budget of $7,141,800, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $451,800, which was mainly due to vacancies among the international staff.

11. The proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 for the maintenance of the Base was contained in document A/54/733. Estimated requirements for that period amounted to $9,317,400 gross ($8,481,300 net), representing a 25 per cent increase in relation to the apportionment for the current period. The proposed increase reflected rises of 6 and 24.1 per cent in civilian personnel costs and operational costs respectively. Provision for staff assessment was also included pursuant to a recommendation of ACABQ. As to staffing requirements, three additional Field Service posts had been requested in the areas of communications and electronic data processing, which would bring the total number of staff to 106, including 23 international staff and 83 locally recruited staff. Additional resources were requested for the installation of fire safety systems throughout the premises of the Base, the relocation of the satellite equipment to a single building and the purchase of equipment to complete the fibre optic network at the Base. At the same time, reductions were proposed under transport. As indicated in annex III, the Base's concept of operations was being reviewed with a view to expanding the scope of its responsibilities. The review would take into account the experience gained during the Base's first year of operation, in particular its role in supporting the launch of several large and complex new missions at extremely short notice. The outcome of the review would be reflected in the proposed budget for the next period.

12. **Ms. Stern** (Director, Audit and Management Consulting Division), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the audit of contingent-owned equipment procedures and payments to troop-contributing countries (A/54/765), said that equipment brought to peacekeeping missions by military contingents and leased by the United Nations played a crucial role in the successful outcome of peacekeeping operations. Since contingent-owned equipment and troop contributions were the two largest components of peacekeeping budgets, it was in the Organization's interest to ensure that those activities were managed efficiently and effectively. The audit conducted by OIOS had found that the recent revision of contingent-owned equipment procedures constituted a meaningful reform, which had reduced record-keeping requirements and simplified the reimbursement of claims.

13. However, additional steps were needed to realize the full benefits of the reform. First, DPKO needed to develop time-frames for contingents to convert to the revised procedures. Second, new procedures were needed for reimbursing troop-contributing countries for equipment preparation and inland transport costs that were in line with United Nations financial and procurement rules. Standard reimbursement rates for those categories would simplify the process and ensure more equitable treatment. Third, the contingent-owned equipment verification and reporting system was cumbersome and should be replaced by an exception reporting system.

14. With regard to reimbursement for troop contributions, current procedures for reporting troop strength figures in peacekeeping missions did not provide adequate accuracy or accountability and required improvement. Lastly, DPKO should streamline procedures for recording and processing claims, provide an adequate number of support staff and make additional efforts to ensure that memoranda of understanding with the troop-contributing countries were signed on a timely basis.

15. OIOS was pleased that both DPKO and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts had largely accepted its recommendations and taken steps to implement them. She hoped that the General

Assembly's Phase V Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-Owned Equipment would take into consideration at its meeting scheduled for January/February 2001 the major issues addressed in the OIOS report, since they concerned matters in which both the Secretariat and the Member States had a stake.

16. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related reports of ACABQ, said that part A of the Advisory Committee's report on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/54/832) dealt with the financial performance of the support account for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. The Advisory Committee recommended, in paragraph 5, that the balance of $2,179,400 should be applied to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. It acknowledged, in paragraph 3, the improvement in the presentation of the performance report, but recommended further refinements.

17. Part B of the Committee report dealt with the cost estimates for the support account, including the Rapid Deployment Management Unit, for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. The Secretary-General estimated support account resources for that period at $51.7 million gross. However, for the reasons indicated in paragraphs 13, 17, 18 and 25 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended an amount of $50.7 million gross. The observations of ACABQ concerning the relationship between DPKO and the Department of Management (DAM) and the status of the Civilian Police Unit of DPKO were contained in paragraphs 21 and 22 respectively. Additional information on the allocation of responsibilities between DPKO and DAM was provided in annex IV to the report.

18. The Advisory Committee had discussed extensively the proposal for the establishment of a Rapid Deployment Management Unit. In paragraphs 23 to 32 of its report, it set out the reasons for the Secretary-General's proposal, the unit's role and the difference between it and the rapidly deployable mission headquarters. In addition, annex V contained a comparison of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters and the Rapid Deployment Management Unit concepts. The Advisory Committee observed, in paragraph 24, that the non-implementation of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters had not yet been addressed by either the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations or the General Assembly and suggested that the Assembly might wish to invite the Special Committee to review the concept of the Rapid Deployment Management Unit. It also identified a number of elements that should be clarified in the context of such a review. The Advisory Committee would revert to the administrative and post proposals for the Unit once the Assembly had reviewed and taken action on the recommendations of the Special Committee.

19. Turning to the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/54/841/Add.8), he said that information on financial performance for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 was contained in paragraphs 3 to 13. As indicated in paragraph 13, a balance of $1,731,800 was available to defray part of the cost of the Base for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001.

20. The cost estimates for the Base were reviewed in paragraphs 14 to 31 of the report. An amount of $9.3 million gross was proposed for the maintenance of the Base for the next financial period, while the proposed staffing requirements would be 106 staff. The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of those requests.

21. The Advisory Committee considered that the Base was becoming a vital instrument for the management of peacekeeping operation activities whether related to new or existing missions. In that connection it welcomed the review of the Base to be conducted by DPKO. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the trend towards exploring the potential capacity for wider use of the Base in the areas of procurement and training. With respect to refurbishment of equipment and trans-shipment of goods to peacekeeping missions, a number of issues needed to be reviewed, as indicated in paragraphs 11 and 12 of its report. As to asset management, the Advisory Committee concluded, in paragraph 28, that the overall objective and benefits of the field assets control system were yet to be achieved. It therefore welcomed the review of the system to be conducted by OIOS. It requested, in paragraph 29, that the conclusions of the review should be taken into account in the preparation of the report requested by ACABQ (A/54/801, para. 21) on the use of the field assets control system and its effect on procurement and the management of peacekeeping assets.

22. With respect to the report of the Advisory Committee on the reform of the procedure for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/54/826), he drew attention to the recommendations and observations contained in paragraphs 5, 6 and 8.

23. Lastly, regarding the report of the Advisory Committee on the review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States (A/54/859), he said that the results of the review were summarized in paragraph 5. The Advisory Committee suggested, in that paragraph, that the General Assembly might wish to take into consideration the increase of 21.1 per cent over the average absorption factor of 32.8 per cent reported for 1991 and to decide whether an adjustment to the current standard rates of reimbursement for troops was warranted. It also invited the Assembly, in paragraph 8, to provide further guidelines with a view to refining the methodology to ensure that more timely and comprehensive data were provided in order to facilitate such a decision.

24. **Mr. Monteiro** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, said that the European Union remained strongly committed to the primary role of the United Nations in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. Peacekeeping operations were one of the core functions of the United Nations and the maintenance of peace and security continued to be its most challenging task, as evidenced by the recent alarming events in Sierra Leone. The most effective administrative and budgetary arrangements for peacekeeping operations should therefore be put in place to provide the Secretariat with the resources and capabilities needed to carry out the mandates entrusted to it by Member States. The European Union strongly supported United Nations peacekeeping missions. In 1999, approximately 6,000 troops and civilian police in peacekeeping missions were nationals of European Union and associated countries.

25. With regard to the specific issues with which the Committee was seized, the European Union was of the view that adequate resources for peacekeeping activities should be provided through both the regular budget and the support account. The Union therefore concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the establishment of 67 additional temporary posts funded under the support account, over and above the 400 which the General Assembly had approved in resolution 53/12, should be authorized.

26. At the current part of its resumed session, the Fifth Committee should consider measures to improve backstopping arrangements. Many good ideas were already under discussion. The Secretary-General's proposal, in particular, contained a valuable analysis of the changed resource requirements that had been imposed by the most recent generation of peacekeeping operations. Military capability was often no longer the central component. It was becoming increasingly important to identify and rapidly deploy a wider spectrum of capabilities, including civilian administrators. The Secretary-General's proposal for a Rapid Deployment Management Unit was the right response to the changed requirements. Such a Unit would allow the pre-selection of a cross section of expertise from which the Secretary-General could draw as soon as a mission was authorized and would constitute a valuable organizational and operational tool for accelerating mission deployment. The Secretary-General's proposal that the Rapid Deployment Management Unit should substitute for the establishment of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters was an important conclusion. While the concept of the headquarters continued to be relevant to and compatible with the Unit, the European Union nevertheless recognized that the immediate priority must be the identification of military and civilian expertise. The Committee should therefore give sympathetic consideration to making the Unit immediately operational by providing the necessary resources for its establishment.

27. The European Union welcomed the progress made towards implementation of the reformed procedure for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment. The reformed procedure was far superior to the old one in terms of planning, monitoring and budgeting, and the Union was pleased to note that some of the issues which it had raised in the past had now been addressed by the Secretariat.

28. The European Union supported the thrust of the recommendations made by the Phase V Working Group but regretted the Group's failure to establish new rates of reimbursement. The Union hoped that the current standard of rates would be reviewed by the post-Phase

V Working Group. To that end, Member States should supply the Group with adequate data as early as possible. The Union agreed with the Advisory Committee that the adequacy of the response from Member States should be reviewed before proceeding with the post-Phase V Working Group. It believed that the Secretariat's comments on the report of the Phase V Working Group should be followed up. Lastly, it noted the longstanding requirement for DPKO to establish procedures and time-frames for contingents in current missions to convert to the revised procedures.

29. With regard to the reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, while the European Union welcomed the recent reimbursements which had reduced the amounts due, the high level of unpaid assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations remained an issue of particular concern. Those Member States that did not live up to their obligations under the Charter jeopardized the financial and operational capabilities of peacekeeping operations and made it more difficult for the Organization to ensure timely reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, a situation that was unacceptable.

30. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing countries (A/54/763), the European Union was of the view that the methodology used by the Secretary-General to define the adequacy of rates of reimbursement was in need of substantial improvement.

31. Concerning utilization of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, the European Union welcomed the recent positive developments, which had made a crucial contribution to the launching of several large new missions and represented a sensible use of the Organization's resources. The question of providing asset management services thanks to technological innovation should be addressed as a matter of priority, especially in view of the new surge in peacekeeping operations that involved high inventory values. The services of the Base should be provided on a cost-sharing basis to the specialized agencies, funds and programmes. In that connection, the recent use of the Base for training activities was welcome. The European Union looked forward to the presentation in the next budget proposal of the results of the Secretariat's review of the concept of operations for the Base during the period 2000-2001.

32. On the subject of the peacekeeping scale, the European Union believed that structural organizational issues should not be divorced from the financing of peacekeeping activities as a core responsibility of Member States, especially given the complexity of the peacekeeping operations currently under way. The peacekeeping scale had long needed a comprehensive revision. The group system, in particular, contained significant anomalies and should be reviewed to take account of Member States' level of economic development, without prejudice to the principle of the special responsibility of permanent members of the Security Council.

33. **Mr. Mbanefo** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, supported South Africa's request for relocation from group (b) to group (c) of the contributors to the peacekeeping scale of assessments. That decision should be taken during the Assembly's current session under agenda item 151 (c) and in no case should it be made contingent upon discussions of the scale.

34. The Group of 77 and China wished to place on record their position on the question of the peacekeeping scale of assessments and the financing of peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping operations were an important function of the United Nations and adequate resources should therefore be provided for all peacekeeping activities. The difficult financial situation of such operations was not linked to the peacekeeping scale of assessments and could be resolved if Member States, and the major contributor in particular, settled their arrears and honoured their obligations under the Charter by paying their contributions in full, on time and without conditions. The scale could not be modified through the imposition of unilateral conditionalities that were contrary to the Charter.

35. The Group of 77 and China believed, moreover, that the principles and guidelines for the apportionment of the expenses of peacekeeping operations approved by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions should be institutionalized on a permanent basis. Any discussion of the scale should take due account of the economic conditions of the developing countries, in particular the low-income developing countries, and should not adversely affect their current position in groups (c) and (d). The Group of 77 and China supported the position adopted by the Twelfth Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and stressed that States members of the Movement and the

Group of 77 and China should be classified in a category that was not higher than group (c). The scale should also take into account the special responsibilities of the five permanent members of the Security Council in the financing of peacekeeping operations. It should not, however, include a new element on the floor or ceiling for permanent members of the Security Council, since such inclusion would be contrary to the principle of capacity to pay.

36. Lastly, discussions on the special scale should not be conducted under pressure of time, and no decision should be taken until the issue was fully deliberated and comprehensively examined by all Member States.

37. **Mr. Powles** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative in establishing a high-level panel to review all aspects of peacekeeping operations. For the United Nations to discharge its responsibilities, however, there must be sufficient political will among the members of the Security Council to give peacekeeping missions the appropriate mandates and the resources with which to discharge them. Especially in recent times, the Security Council had been guilty of delivering too little too late.

38. Peacekeeping mandates must reflect requirements on the ground and not be shaped by an aversion to risk and avoidance of necessary costs. Financial constraints on peacekeeping operations had seriously impaired the collective responsibility of Member States to maintain international peace and security, a situation that would continue to exist as long as Member States, particularly the largest contributor, failed to fulfil their obligations under the Charter to pay their assessments in full, on time and without conditions. The financial requirements of peacekeeping missions had soared as a result of the upsurge in the number of missions and the new challenges posed by such complex tasks as civilian administration.

39. Improvements were needed in the administration and management of peacekeeping operations, particularly with respect to overbudgeting and the high vacancy rates in certain missions. Bureaucratic procedures should be streamlined in order to improve the planning, staffing and management of peacekeeping missions and to avoid duplication of activities between Headquarters and the field. In that connection, the improvements in financial performance and budget documents were most welcome, particularly at a time of increasingly complex and numerous peacekeeping requirements.

40. The delegations on whose behalf he spoke commended the Phase V Working Group for the improvements it had made to the system of contingent-owned equipment, and in particular the development of a methodology for future rate reviews. Member States should actively participate in the continued enhancement of the new procedures by providing data for the convening of the post-Phase V Working Group.

41. On the subject of the support account, while the Secretary-General's proposal for a Rapid Deployment Management Unit as an alternative to the rapidly deployable mission headquarters had certain merits, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was the appropriate body of the General Assembly, should review all aspects of the new concept. Discussion of the concept should also be informed by the other ongoing comprehensive reviews of peacekeeping requirements, since a comprehensive approach was needed to ensure sufficient resources and an appropriate structure for the proper administration and management of peacekeeping operations.

42. The Canadian, Australian and New Zealand delegations had long supported a revision of the ad hoc peacekeeping scale as part of the overall reform of United Nations financing, and their individual proposals for reform remained on the table for discussion. Structural changes were required to make the scale more transparent and equitable and less arbitrary. The scale should be based on the regular budget scale and the principle of capacity to pay. A substantial surcharge should continue to be levied on the permanent members of the Security Council and the benefits of the surcharge should flow to the economically less developed Member States. There should be no predetermined floor or ceiling rate of contribution.

43. Comprehensive reform of the peacekeeping scale should address the anomalies within and between the various groups of Member States in the peacekeeping scale; the absence of an automatic mechanism for moving between groups in response to changing economic circumstances; the lack of objective criteria for locating new Member States in the various groups; the overall decline in the special responsibility of the five permanent members of the Security Council for

the funding of peacekeeping; and the need for automatic and periodic review.

44. While sympathetic to South Africa's request to relocate from group (b) to group (c), the delegations on whose behalf he spoke considered that such changes should not be made on a piecemeal basis. They also opposed any attempt by Member States to unilaterally alter their rates of assessment; the only valid rates were those that had been determined and agreed upon by the General Assembly. They supported a discussion of the underlying principles of the peacekeeping scale from which genuine reform of the scale could be developed and were willing to discuss all proposals designed to achieve an equitable outcome for the peacekeeping scale.

45. Some States had been presenting the problems associated with peacekeeping financing as if they were solely the making of the United Nations and attributable to the fact that the peacekeeping scale had not been revised since its creation in 1973. That was by no means the whole story. Difficulties in peacekeeping financing had been caused mainly by the fact that Member States, in particular the largest contributor, had not paid all their peacekeeping assessments on time, in full and without conditions. Arrears in the payment of peacekeeping assessments had caused hardship to all troop- and equipment-contributing countries, especially in the developing world. The high level of unpaid contributions was unsustainable and Member States should fulfil their legal obligations to the Organization without conditionalities, which only put the Organization at further risk at a time when peacekeeping was more necessary than ever to address the complex issues of peace and security around the world.

46. **Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa) said that recent events, and in particular the escalation of conflicts in Africa, had added a sense of urgency to the debate on the Organization's peacekeeping operations, which might to a large extent determine the role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security in the twenty-first century. Increasingly, Member States were questioning the manner in which peacekeeping missions were authorized and their apparent division into first-class and second-class operations. That was why his delegation supported a discussion of the peacekeeping scale of assessments in the Fifth Committee.

47. At their recent meeting in Cartagena, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement had stated that the scale of assessments for the period 2001-2003 must take into consideration the economic conditions of the developing countries. Any unilateral attempt to modify the scale through conditionalities that were contrary to the Charter was unacceptable. Modification of the scale would be considered only if, in accordance with the principle of capacity to pay, it spread the burden of payment more broadly among major contributors without adversely affecting members of the Non-Aligned Movement and other developing countries. Furthermore, the principles and guidelines which the General Assembly had approved for the apportionment of the expenses of peacekeeping operations should be institutionalized. In that regard, account must be taken of the special responsibility of the five permanent members of the Security Council in the financing of such operations. Members of the Non-Aligned Movement and other developing countries, moreover, should be located in a category no higher than group (c).

48. Since its return to full membership of the United Nations, South Africa had consistently paid its dues in full, on time and without conditions. It was a developing country with an average per capita gross national product of $3,200 per annum, making it the only economically less developed Member State to find itself in group (b). In seeking relocation to group (c), it was asking for nothing more than for the General Assembly to be consistent in the application of existing guidelines and principles. However, owing to pressing national development priorities, it could ill afford to wait much longer for action under agenda item 151 (c).

49. **Mr. Zackheos** (Cyprus) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement of the European Union but would like to make some additional comments from the perspective of a country which had been host to a United Nations peacekeeping force since 1964.

50. Not only had peacekeeping operations increased in number and scope in the face of greater demand; their mandates had also moved beyond the traditional functions of conflict prevention to those of peace-building. DPKO faced a serious challenge in fulfilling its responsibilities with limited human resources and funding. His delegation supported the strengthening of the Department, including its planning capacity, to make possible the timely deployment of troops and the

smooth operation of missions. In most cases, time was of the essence; delays tarnished the image of the Organization and complicated efforts to reach a viable solution.

51. There was room for greater interaction and fine-tuning between DPKO and the Department of Political Affairs. Personnel policy should focus on continuing training for both substantive and logistical support staff and remain aware of the need to rotate personnel between Headquarters and the field. Since it was difficult to anticipate the kind of skills that would be required to meet the challenges of the new multidimensional missions, it was the responsibility of Governments to ensure that the Secretariat had access on short notice to the special expertise required to respond to emerging needs. A revitalized DPKO would also enhance the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers in the field.

52. His Government was concerned about the unwillingness of the international community to respond to peacekeeping needs in Africa with the same zeal and urgency as in other regions of the world.

53. For all those reasons, his delegation supported a review of the methodology of the peacekeeping scale of assessments, even though it might mean a substantial increase in its own contribution. Cyprus had set an example by agreeing to bear voluntarily one third of the budget of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Moreover, it had agreed to contribute voluntarily an additional one third over and above its assessed contribution to all United Nations peacekeeping operations. He was authorized by his Government to announce that Cyprus would be willing to give up the discount to which it was entitled under the present system in recognition of the importance of peacekeeping activities.

54. The system for financing peacekeeping operations must be based on capacity to pay and should be reviewed periodically to take account of changes in the economic circumstances of individual States. Due consideration must be given to the special needs of small States and the least developed countries.

55. **Mr. Tello** (Mexico) said that, since the General Assembly had established the principles for the financing of peacekeeping operations in 1963, by its resolution 1874 (S-IV), it had been recognized that the permanent members of the Security Council had the greatest responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security and that the principle of capacity to pay was fundamental. It was also appropriate that a universal Organization should not rely excessively on one contributor. Any agreement to lower the ceiling for contributions, however, should be made subject to the commitment of Member States to meet all financial obligations in full and on time. It should also be understood that the funding lost through a reduction in payments from the major contributor would be apportioned among Member States in accordance with the existing methodology.

56. A group of States had expressed interest in revising the ad hoc agreement for peacekeeping assessments, while the majority of States favoured institutionalizing that scale. Although it was true that, since the adoption of resolution 3101 (XXVIII) in 1973, 53 States had joined the United Nations and that 98 per cent of peacekeeping financing came from 30 countries, it was also true that in 1974 the permanent members of the Security Council had contributed 63 per cent of the cost of those activities, whereas in 2000 their contribution had dropped to 47 per cent.

57. The political situation in the world had changed more than the distribution of wealth in the years since 1973. Economic disparities were the cause of the disparities in contributions to peacekeeping. In 1973 the median income of members of category B had been 4 times greater than that of members of category C, whereas in 1998 it had been 6 times greater. The criteria for assignment to category B or C must be favourable to the developing countries and recognize their relatively limited capacity to contribute to peacekeeping.

58. The decline in the share of contributions from the permanent members of the Security Council must be kept in mind when discussing a revision of the scale and the criteria for relocation. His delegation's main concern was that, while the individual and collective financial responsibilities of those countries would decline, their privileges, especially the right of veto, would not be affected. The special responsibility of those States for peacekeeping was long established, and it should be reflected in their share of assessed contributions to peacekeeping.

59. In the view of his delegation, any review of the contribution structure for peacekeeping operations should reaffirm the principle of the special responsibility of the Permanent Members of the

Security Council and the capacity to pay. It was also important to remember that, as long as no agreement was reached on the scale of assessments for the regular budget, no progress could be expected on peacekeeping finance.

60. **Mr. Holbrooke** (United States of America) said that the work of the Committee must culminate in true reform of the way peacekeeping was financed and DPKO functioned — or else the very future of the United Nations could be endangered. The Organization had been founded fifty-five years earlier primarily to keep the peace, and its success would ultimately be judged by its record in peacekeeping.

61. The recent Security Council mission to assess the prospects for peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had pointed to one fundamental fact: peacekeeping must be fixed in order to be saved. Unless decisive action was taken, those who threatened peacekeepers in Africa and elsewhere could draw the conclusion that the United Nations lacked the will, the cohesion and the resources to challenge them. His Government took its responsibilities very seriously, but United Nations peacekeeping was by definition a collective responsibility. Without concerted action, peacekeeping would fail, crippled by an organizational and financial system that could not support the increasing demands being placed on it by Member States.

62. The sight of peacekeepers being taken hostage in Sierra Leone almost exactly five years after peacekeepers had been taken hostage in Bosnia was deeply sobering and should lead the international community to wonder if it had learned anything in that time. He hoped the answer would be yes. Certainly there had been successes — Namibia, El Salvador, Mozambique and East Timor were just a few which came to mind — but failures in Sierra Leone or elsewhere would inevitably cast a shadow over them. Peacekeeping must be reformed conceptually, bureaucratically and financially, and a distinction must be made between peacekeeping and peacemaking. Current missions had taken on a vast and challenging array of civilian and military tasks never imagined by the founders of the United Nations. Since the start of the 1990s, the term "peacekeeping" had been used to refer to activities that differed in scope, magnitude, complexity and difficulty from anything that had gone before. Yet the greater demands on peacekeeping had not been met by the increased investment necessary to ensure the desired outcome.

63. It must be stressed that DPKO, with only a shoestring budget, a small staff and a set of resources that must be reconstituted for every mission, had achieved an admirable measure of success. Yet with five large missions — Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, East Timor and Lebanon — moving into high gear, and ten more missions at various stages of activity, it faced an apparent mission impossible. It was hoped that the report of the Secretary-General's expert panel would clarify what must be done. In the meantime, however, immediate steps must be taken to bolster staff, streamline logistics and procurement and get resources to the field more quickly. An obvious step would be to approve the Secretariat's request to develop and staff a rapid deployment management unit. Another essential step was to equip the Logistics Base at Brindisi with state-of-the-art equipment. The kind of advance planning measures used for the mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo should be employed for future multi-disciplinary operations.

64. That the Department of Public Information was twice as large as DPKO was alarming and inappropriate. If Member States truly cared about peacekeeping functions, the Secretary-General should be given the tools to fulfil them. The United States, consistent with its firm and sustained emphasis on budget discipline, was ready to consider proposals to add more posts to the Department in a way that avoided unnecessary pressure on the regular budget. Subject to a response to the longstanding request for a thorough inventory of current personnel and core and surge needs, it would back a substantial expansion in Department staff through redeployment and additional hiring funded by the support account and individual mission budgets.

65. The second part of the reform equation was financing. The system for financing had been created in 1973 and had been designed for a single operation. All had agreed that it was temporary and did not set a precedent, yet it had never been revised or properly re-examined. The world had changed dramatically since 1973, but the ad hoc peacekeeping scale had hardened into stone. The system was completely at odds with common sense and the best interests of Member States. It also violated the principle of capacity to pay, by concentrating 98 per cent of the responsibility in the

hands of just 30 members. Similarly, as a result of changes in the regular budget scale of assessment, the principle of special responsibility for the permanent members of the Security Council had been lost. The principle of taking into account a country's stage of development was likewise undercut: some countries were paying beyond their means, while some which could pay more were assessed next to nothing.

66. The United States did not have a concrete plan, and it was prepared to work with all Member States to consider ideas to fix the system. Among ideas meriting attention were creating a new tax bracket for middle-income countries, reviving the role of all permanent members through a floor rate or another mechanism that affirmed their special responsibility, reducing reliance on a single contributor through a ceiling rate and implementing objective thresholds so that countries moved between categories based on changing economic indicators. Indeed, as many speakers had pointed out, his Government had not fully resolved the situation regarding its arrears to the regular budget, but it was still the largest single contributor to the Organization. He reaffirmed that the United States would not advance any proposal that would increase the peacekeeping assessment rates for countries with low per capita income. Once the peacekeeping scale was reformed, the United Nations would be able to begin reimbursing the many Member States which had generously contributed troops to past operations but had still not received the full amount owed.

67. In considering whether the international community could afford to keep the system in business, Member States must also consider whether it could afford not to. In real terms, the cost of United Nations peacekeeping barely registered against national defence expenditures. The cost of refusing to support peacekeeping, on the other hand, would be measured in innocent lives worldwide.

68. He was encouraged that so many delegations had taken the time over the past few months to evaluate their positions in the light of current circumstances and to develop creative and forward-looking ideas on reform. He hoped that the current discussion would prove to be a turning point in the debate on peacekeeping.

69. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Pakistan troops had contributed enormously to the restoration of peace in various strife-torn regions of the world, sometimes at the cost of their lives. Accordingly, Pakistan supported any effort to augment the Organization's financial and operational capacity to cope with the growing demand for peacekeeping activities. The qualitative changes in the nature of conflicts and the sudden upsurge in the Organization's involvement in conflict management and peacekeeping activities had given rise to an unprecedented demand for financial resources, yet the Organization was in a precarious financial situation. That uncertainty could be removed through timely and full compliance by all Member States with their financial obligations. He was pleased that cross-borrowing from peacekeeping funds had ceased, and he hoped that every effort would be made to reduce the huge amount of peacekeeping arrears and to halt the further depletion of peacekeeping funds.

70. The Organization's inordinate delay in reimbursing Member States that provided troops and equipment had caused serious difficulties for developing countries, including Pakistan. Moreover, the current standard rates of reimbursement did not fully cover the costs incurred by those States. Several new elements introduced in connection with the proposed rapid deployment management unit required further reflection and comprehensive examination.

71. Pakistan had always played an active role in strengthening the Organization's capacity to maintain international peace and security and would continue to do so. However, all Member States must demonstrate the political commitment to address the underlying causes of the current financial predicament in a spirit of cooperation and understanding. His delegation would participate in any process aimed at ensuring a secure financial foundation for United Nations peacekeeping. Innovative and realistic approaches should be taken to overcoming existing difficulties. Pakistan agreed that, in the review of the existing ad hoc scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations, the principles and guidelines contained in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 1963 and 3101 (XXVIII) of 1973, including the greater capacity to pay of economically more developed countries, must remain central to any attempt to institutionalize a permanent financing arrangement. Developing countries, particularly low-income developing countries, must continue to receive the discounts currently available to them under the existing scale.

Lastly, he reiterated the urgency of enhancing the Organization's financial stability and operational effectiveness in meeting its mandated peacekeeping responsibilities.

72. **Mr. Satoh** (Japan) said that the importance of United Nations peacekeeping operations was increasing dramatically and that the mandates of recent operations had become increasingly complex and comprehensive. Their activities included not only conventional peacekeeping activities but also humanitarian assistance, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former soldiers into society, human rights monitoring and even economic reconstruction and the establishment of local administrative structures. Consequently, peacekeeping operations were becoming larger and more costly, and total peacekeeping expenditure for the current fiscal year was expected to be more than double that for the preceding fiscal year.

73. In view of the expected sharp increase in peacekeeping expenditure and the need to make peacekeeping operations more effective and credible, the administrative and financial aspects of the peacekeeping budget must be improved and the current scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations must be reviewed and updated. The economic situation of many Member States had changed a great deal since the basic formula and country groupings of the current system had been established in 1973. Since Member States had different opinions regarding revision of the peacekeeping scale, the issue should be discussed by the Fifth Committee.

74. **Mr. Sharma** (India) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Since peacekeeping was the most visible activity carried out by the United Nations, whose role in that area was irreplaceable, it must continue to receive the necessary attention, energy and resources on a priority basis. Nonetheless, unpaid assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations had amounted to $1.48 billion as at 31 December 1999, while the estimated requirements for peacekeeping operations between 1 July 2000 and 30 June 2001 amounted to over $2 billion. Despite the Fifth Committee's repeated references to the Organization's precarious financial situation, that predicament seemed to be receiving less sympathy, as witnessed, *inter alia*, by the fact that, as at 30 April 2000, only 32 countries had paid their assessed contributions in full to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). If peacekeeping was considered a priority for the Organization and its Members, its financing must be addressed in a more concerted, serious and purposeful manner.

75. It was regrettable that the constraints faced by peacekeeping operations were compounded by financial constraints that determined, circumscribed and often undermined those activities. Efforts must be made to streamline the administrative and financial aspects of peacekeeping activities to ensure their smooth implementation and their very survival. The current state of the Organization's finances was so precarious that all new approaches must be explored. The Organization's peacekeeping functions should not be threatened, as they had been in recent years, by the failure of some Members to honour their commitments. His delegation was willing to hear the views of other Members on all aspects of peacekeeping, including the peacekeeping scale.

76. **Mr. Mahbubani** (Singapore) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It was willing to discuss the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations, even though the consensus on the need to do so appeared to be somewhat reluctant. Any such discussion should take a holistic approach that addressed the concerns of all Member States, not just the well-known concerns of a vocal minority.

77. He wondered why the initiators of that discussion had not followed the established procedure of submitting a request to the General Assembly for the inclusion of that item in the agenda, instead of taking the unconventional approach of writing letters to Committee members. The failure to follow established procedures at all stages of the exercise could cast doubt on the decisions which might eventually be reached by the Committee. Those procedures were intended to provide transparency and built-in safeguards to all Member States, since they ensured that the latter were informed of all the facts and heard all the views and concerns expressed by other Member States and by the relevant expert bodies. The discussion should not be subject to artificial time pressures or arbitrary deadlines; all parties must have adequate time to air their views, to reflect on the proposals put forward and to formulate their positions. The current arrangement for the financing of peacekeeping operations, which had served the Organization well for nearly three

decades, should be maintained pending the outcome of those discussions, and ongoing peacekeeping operations must not be jeopardized by politicking among Member States.

78. The existing scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations should be institutionalized, and no developing country should be classified above the group set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232. As the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 had stated on the occasion of their Twenty-third Annual Meeting, the permanent members of the Security Council had special responsibilities for the financing of peacekeeping operations, and the establishment of a ceiling and a floor for those countries was totally unacceptable. Singapore would consider proposals by the United States to reduce its share of peacekeeping contributions only if the United States convinced other developed countries to absorb that reduction. That issue should be resolved by the countries that wielded influence over the direction of United Nations peacekeeping activities. The developing countries did not have the primary responsibility for solving that problem, although they could help by remaining flexible. Such flexibility should not, however, be exploited. Exerting pressure on developing countries to move voluntarily from group C to group B would not correct the alleged imbalances in the peacekeeping scale. While it was reasonable to expect developing countries with increased capacity to pay to bear a larger share of the financial burden, it was not reasonable to grant a massive discount to a major contributor whose capacity to pay was at an all-time high.

79. Capacity to pay was a cardinal "theory" underlying all United Nations scales of assessments. It could not be called a principle, since it was not applied across the board. The peacekeeping scale was the outcome of a political agreement among Member States and was based on their perceived influence on the Organization's activities to maintain global peace and security. It was also based on the scale of assessments for the regular budget, which should, in principle, adequately reflect capacity to pay. However, if the proposal to reduce the ceiling of the regular-budget scale from 25 to 22 per cent was approved, the major contributor's capacity to pay would be distorted, and the absorption of that reduction by other Member States would further distort their capacity to pay. Those distortions would then be passed on to the peacekeeping scale, at the expense of the few developing countries that had managed to achieve real economic growth. It was unfair for countries that rose above the low per capita income threshold to be confronted by immediate increases in their regular budget and peacekeeping assessments, and for countries which had high per capita incomes as a result of their small populations to be pressured to absorb the discounts of Member States that were in a better economic position, without regard to the economic, structural and geophysical challenges faced by those countries.

80. The argument that the Organization's dependence on a single contributor should be reduced was not without merit, but the increases resulting from any broadening of the scale should be borne by major contributors of the industrialized world. Developed countries were eager to spread the financial responsibility for the Organization's expenses but did not show the same generosity in relation to positions of power and influence. More significantly, efforts to make the scales of assessments more equitable were meaningless if Member States did not honour their Charter obligations to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. The observance of that obligation by all Member States, particularly the major contributor, was the only means of preventing financial crisis in the Organization. While he welcomed the willingness of the United States to support the sustainability of United Nations peacekeeping operations, he hoped that it would do so by living up to its obligations under the Charter.

81. The linkage of the payment of arrears by the United States to the reduction of its assessed contributions had placed the United Nations in jeopardy and had unnecessarily complicated the work of the Fifth Committee. It was important to respect the sovereignty and equality of all Member States and to address their individual concerns, since any change in the scales of assessments would affect even the smallest contributors. He urged all delegations to take an open and objective approach that would enable the Committee to reach a lasting solution that addressed the concerns of all delegations.

82. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt) said that he endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. His delegation, along with a number of other delegations representing different regional groups, had

supported the proposal to review the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations, since peacekeeping activities were on the rise and most of them took place on the African continent. The situation in relation to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone only served to reaffirm that adequate financing and timely preparation for United Nations peacekeeping activities should not be hampered for political or financial reasons. It was therefore imperative that the Member States should discuss that issue openly, in a cordial atmosphere, without imposing any preconditions.

83. The principles and guidelines for the apportionment of the expenses of peacekeeping operations, which the General Assembly had adopted in 1963 and 1973, were an excellent basis for those discussions. It was also important not to deviate from the principle of the special responsibility borne by the five permanent members of the Security Council and to recognize the limited capacity to pay of developing countries, especially the least developed countries. Informal consultations on the subject should begin during the current part of the resumed fifty-fourth session, and a final decision should be taken at a later stage, after a thorough and comprehensive study of all aspects of the peacekeeping scale had been submitted and reviewed, with the aim of reaching a consensus on that important and time-sensitive issue.

84. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that, since the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations had remained unchanged since 1973, and in view of the difficulties encountered in the financing of such activities, it was time to conduct a thorough and transparent review of that scale in a constructive manner and on the basis of established principles. Priority should be given to measures that would ensure the appropriate financing of peacekeeping activities. The assessed contributions of developing countries, particularly those in Africa, should not exceed those of the States in group C of the peacekeeping scale. Any significant change in assessed contributions under the peacekeeping scale should take into account the limited capacity to pay of the low-income countries currently classified in groups C and D. Accordingly, his delegation supported the request of South Africa for reclassification from group B to group C, as well as the views on the subject expressed recently at the Twelfth Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

85. His delegation supported the proposal to review those issues for the sole purpose of strengthening the Organization's current and future peacekeeping capacities and enhancing its credibility in the area of collective security. Since 1960, Senegal had contributed troops to United Nations operations all over the world. In view of the increased number, difficulty and complexity of peacekeeping operations, all aspects of their financing and effectiveness should be considered. He had taken note of the comments made by some delegations to the effect that the current arrangement seriously threatened the future of peacekeeping activities. The statements made by those delegations, including that of the United States, had led him to believe that informal consultations on the subject would be useful. All those issues should be discussed constructively and objectively.

86. **Mr. Fonseca** (Brazil) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

87. Over the past few years there had been a worrisome increase in the number of conflicts worldwide and hence in the demand for United Nations peacekeeping activities. Problems faced by some operations had revealed the political and organizational complexities involved in peacekeeping activity. Some delegations had expressed the desire to begin discussion on the ad hoc scale of assessments for peacekeeping. There was certainly a financial crisis affecting the implementation of peacekeeping operations. However, it was not attributable to flawed methodology but rather to the failure on the part of the largest contributor to fulfil its financial obligations. That situation had negatively affected the reimbursement of expenses to troop-contributing countries.

88. Brazil's position on the peacekeeping scale of assessments was well known and was based on three principles. Peacekeeping operations were a core activity of the United Nations and the collective responsibility of all Member States without exception. However, the permanent members of the Security Council had special responsibilities in the financing of peacekeeping operations. Developing countries, on the other hand, had a limited capacity to contribute to the financing of peacekeeping missions.

89. The methodology of the ad hoc peacekeeping scale of assessments had been maintained over the past

27 years because its basic principles, guidelines, structure and criteria were fair, equitable and simple. In applying those principles, account must, of course, be taken of major economic changes over the years. However, consensus-building was the only sound basis for modifications in the scale. Any exercise undertaken to refine application of the principles must be transparent and technically sound and should not call into question the validity of the principles themselves. No conclusion on the issue could be reached before countries were able to assess fully the impact of the regular scale of assessments for the period 2001-2003. In view of the complexities involved, discussions in the Fifth Committee should necessarily be preceded by a thorough examination by a technical body, such as the Committee on Contributions or an ad hoc committee.

90. His delegation supported the request of South Africa to be moved from group B to group C. That was not a matter of methodology but a corrective measure for a particular case consistent with the main principles of the ad hoc scale.

91. **Mr. Bouah-Kamon** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his delegation fully supported the statements made by Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by South Africa on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. He wished to make a few additional remarks concerning the need to update the peacekeeping scale of assessments, the implications of peacekeeping operations for Africa, and suggestions for a reform to create collective responsibility for operational financing and achieve timely reimbursement to Member States contributing troops and equipment.

92. Adaptation and change were necessary to any social structure. The circumstances under which the peacekeeping scale of assessments had originally been created had changed, and the scale itself needed to be revised. Any revision, however, must be based on objective and time-tested criteria, such as capacity to pay and gross national product. His delegation was more than willing to participate in a review of the peacekeeping scale, provided that the review offered the opportunity to convert the system from an ad hoc arrangement to a definitive system based on criteria acceptable to all, and that it was an objective exercise, not one with the hidden agenda of reducing the share of those who should actually pay more.

93. The process of development was not always smooth, as recent events in Africa had shown. The increasing number of crises in the region had led the international community to deploy the largest number of peacekeeping operations on the African continent. His delegation applauded the aid and solidarity shown and deeply regretted the loss of life. Any effort to improve and strengthen peacekeeping initiatives had the unconditional support of his delegation. In response to the notion of collective responsibility for peacekeeping operations, developing countries had decided to take a more active role in providing troops and equipment. It was commendable that many countries of the South were participating in peacekeeping operations but deplorable that increasingly those countries were the only source of troops for high-risk peacekeeping operations in Africa. The problem was compounded when countries with extremely limited financial resources were not reimbursed in a timely fashion for the troops and equipment they had contributed, a situation that appeared to be becoming chronic. His delegation was in favour of a revision of the peacekeeping scale of operations, on the understanding that once positions were adopted by consensus, no Member State, however small or however powerful, would have an excuse for failing to meet the commitments it had freely undertaken under the Charter.

94. **Mr. Šimonović** (Croatia) said that his delegation would like to offer the perspective of a country that had both hosted peacekeeping operations, including one of the most successful in United Nations history, and contributed personnel to them. The transition from traditional forms of peacekeeping to a more complex role had led to increased demand for a rapid-response capacity and a greater need for professional experience and expertise to satisfy the new mandates. Those expectations were undercut by delays in meeting assessed financial obligations. The high level of unpaid assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations was of particular concern and resulted in unfairness towards troop-contributing countries, particularly those from the developing world and countries in transition. The projected heavy increases in the peacekeeping budget would create a considerable burden for all Member States. It was therefore important to have the most effective possible administrative and financial framework for peacekeeping operations.

95. His delegation supported reform of peacekeeping operations in general, including a revision of the current peacekeeping scale. It was appropriate to adapt the scale to new circumstances, including changes in levels of development and the addition of many new States since the scale was last prepared. Nevertheless, the permanent members of the Security Council should continue to have special responsibilities, and the principle of the capacity to pay of each Member State remained fundamental. It was important that contributions should be paid and not just assessed. Hence assessments should be in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. It was absurd that an assessment should continue to be made for a State that had ceased to exist or for a State that had not yet applied for membership. The fiction did not serve the interests of the Organization. The existing regular procedure should be followed to ensure equal treatment of all States, and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly should be respected, so that such mistakes would not be repeated in any future scale of assessments.

96. His delegation advocated broader discussion of the issue, including an exchange of views in the Fifth Committee, consultations with the relevant United Nations departments and deliberations in the plenary Assembly.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.